Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ modified or unmodified antisense compound 20 to 30 nucleobases in length targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding human STAT3, wherein said antisense compound comprises ~~at least an 8 nucleobase portion of~~ SEQ ID NO: 342, ~~wherein said antisense compound inhibits the expression of human STAT3~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The antisense compound of claim ~~2~~ 1 ~~wherein the antisense oligonucleotide~~ which comprises at least one modified internucleoside linkage.

4. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 3 wherein the modified internucleoside linkage is a phsophorothioate linkage.

5. (Currently Amended) The antisense compound of claim ~~2~~ 4 ~~wherein the antisense olignucleotide~~ which comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

6. (Original) The antisense compound of claim 5 wherein the modified sugar moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl moiety.

7. (Currently Amended) The antisense compound of claim ~~2~~ 6 ~~wherein the antisense oligonucleotide~~ which comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

8. (Currently Amended) The antisense compound of claim 7 wherein the modified nucleobase is a 5-methyl cytosine.

9. (Currently Amended) The antisense compound of claim 1 ~~wherein the antisense~~

~~oligonucleotide~~ which is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ modified or unmodified antisense oligonucleotide consisting of SEQ ID NO: 342, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (Withdrawn) A method of inhibiting the expression of STAT3 in cancer cells comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that expression of STAT3 is inhibited.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing apoptosis in cancer cells comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of Claim 1, so that apoptosis is induced.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said cancer cells are multiple myeloma cells.

17. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method of sensitizing cells to apoptosis comprising contacting said cells with the antisense compound of claim 1 so that apoptosis ~~in~~ is induced.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein said apoptosis is Fas-mediated.

19. (New) The antisense compound of Claim 1 wherein the internucleoside linkages are phosphorothioate throughout the oligonucleotide, 5 nucleotides on the 5' end and 5 nucleotides on the 3' end are 2'-O-methoxyethyl nucleotides, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (New) The antisense compound of Claim 19 wherein all cytosine residues are 5-methyl-cytosines.

21. (New) The antisense compound of Claim 20 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a sodium salt.

22. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of Claim 13 wherein the internucleoside linkages are phosphorothioate throughout the oligonucleotide , nucleotides 1-5 and 16-20 are 2'-O-methoxyethyl nucleotides, and all cytosines are 5-methyl-cytosines, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of Claim 22 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a sodium salt.

24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 23 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.